

WASHINGTON, DC—On April 1, 2009, The Department of Education announced the awarding 50 percent of each state's Title I, Part A funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These funds will be awarded under each state's existing approved Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) Consolidated State Application.

"These stimulus funds will support the economy now by preventing layoffs at our schools, and will lay the foundation of our future prosperity and well-being through a crucial, strategic investment in our children's education," Congressman Sestak said.

To increase access to the Recovery Act, Congressman Sestak and his staff maintain a comprehensive ARRA Resource Directory with detailed contact information that is updated every Friday, available at his Web site: www.sestak.house.gov .

The Title I, Part A ARRA awards will be in addition to the regular FY 2009 Title I, Part A grant awards that the Department plans to make on July 1 and Oct. 1, 2009. For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Education via email at TitleI.ARR@ed.gov .

7th Congressional District Schools District's receiving funds:

Chester-Upland School District \$3,704,828
Chichester School District \$415,804
Colonial School District \$268,673
Interboro School District \$334,065
Marple Newtown School District \$233,135
Norristown Area School District \$1,161,764
Penn-Delco School District \$202,571
Ridley School District \$479,774
Rose Tree Media School District \$219,630
Southeast Delco School District \$1,002,905
Upper Darby School District \$2,973,536
William Penn School District \$1,466,687

Actual amounts received by school districts may vary due to State-level adjustments to Federal Title I allocations, reflecting service area and population changes.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that a total of \$44 billion for states and schools is now available under the Recovery Act. This funding will lay the foundation for a generation of education reform and help save hundreds of thousands of teaching jobs at risk of state and local budget cuts.

The announcement includes the application and guidelines for \$32.6 billion under the State Stabilization Fund, representing two-thirds of the total dollars in the Fund. This includes \$26.6 billion to save jobs and improve K-12 and higher education and a separate \$6 billion in a Government Services Fund to pay for education, public safety or other government services.

Funds in the first round will be released within two weeks of an application's approval. A second round of stabilization funds will be released later in the year. A third round of funding, the Race to the Top competitive grant program will reward states that have made the most progress on reforms.

The guidelines released today promote comprehensive education reform by receiving commitments from states that they will collect, publish, analyze and act on basic information regarding the quality of classroom teachers, annual student improvements, college readiness, the effectiveness of state standards and assessments, progress on removing charter caps, and interventions in turning around underperforming schools. Specifically, the law requires states to show:

- Improvements in teacher effectiveness and commitments that all schools have highly qualified teachers;
- Progress toward college and career-ready standards and rigorous assessments that will improve both teaching and learning;
- Improvements in achievement in low-performing schools, by providing intensive support and effective interventions in those schools.
- That they can gather information to improve student learning, teacher performance, and college and career-readiness through enhanced data systems that track progress.

In a letter to governors, Secretary Duncan outlined a set of proposed measurements that states would report on their progress toward the education reforms spelled out in the law. The Department will release these metrics for public comment in the Federal Register in April and then issue a final version.

The guidelines also require states to report the number of jobs saved through Recovery Act funding, the amount of state and local tax increases averted, and how funds are used. It further requires that the bulk of the federal dollars be spent on education.

Part 2 of the State Stabilization Fund Application, available later this year, will allow states to apply for the last third of the stabilization funds, which includes \$13.1 billion for education and \$2.9 billion designated for the Government Services Fund. Guidelines for Part 2 require states to submit the required data or provide an explanation of why the data is currently unavailable and a plan for collecting the data by 2011.

Finally, \$5 billion in competitive grants, the “Race to the Top” fund, will be awarded to states that are most aggressively pursuing reforms. In order to ensure that Recovery Act funds are driving classroom improvements, states competing for Race to the Top funds will be judged on how well they are using the first round of stabilization and Title I funds to advance education reforms.

In addition to the stabilization funds, \$11.4 billion is available immediately under the Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living programs. Title I programs serve schools with large concentrations of low-income students. IDEA funds serve students with disabilities. A second round of Title I and IDEA funds will be available later in the year.

To receive State Stabilization Funds, states must also meet maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirements of the law by showing that 2009 state education budgets at least meet 2006 state education budget levels. If they cannot meet the maintenance of effort requirements, states can receive a waiver if they can show that their education budgets are not being disproportionately reduced.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking

former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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